

UNION INTERNATIONALE CONTRE LE PERIL VENERIEN

At the General Assembly of the *Union Internationale contre le Peril Venerien*, held in Paris from Oct. 20 to 25, 1947, the following five resolutions were passed :

Resolution I

The U.I.P.V., believing that the fight against venereal disease can be completely successful only through the simultaneous use of measures concerned with education, treatment, and prevention, asks all governments :

- (a) To carry out an active programme of education in hygiene, biology, and civic responsibility among the teaching profession, the general public, and more particularly the young of both sexes.
- (b) To organize a complete network of venereal disease clinics and, in the interests both of the individual patient and of the community, to secure the co-operation of general practitioners (bearing in mind that such treatment as may be given by general practitioners must be free of charge to the patient).
- (c) To adopt administrative measures, nationally and internationally, that make it possible for infective contacts to be traced and brought under treatment. These emphatically must include compulsory powers to treat those in a contagious state who refuse to seek treatment.
- (d) To take steps to enable general practitioners to become conversant with up-to-date methods of the diagnosis and treatment of venereal diseases.

Resolution II

The U.I.P.V., believing that the campaign against venereal diseases can be fully successful only if it has the active support of all members of the medical profession, requests all general practitioners to participate in the campaign, not only by giving treatment but also by playing their part in prevention, co-operating closely with the medical officers of health and with the directors of venereal disease clinics, so as to secure the tracing of contacts and the treatment of those found to be infective ; and requests governments to appreciate that the work of the doctor can be just as valuable in prevention as in treatment, and asks that doctors should be suitably remunerated for preventive work in conformity with conditions obtaining in each country.

Resolution III

The U.I.P.V., regarding the venereal diseases as a universal scourge that recognizes no frontiers, and

recalling the important results obtained by the International Brussels Agreement through the treatment facilities provided for seafarers infected with venereal disease, requests the World Health Organization and all governments

- (a) as a matter of urgency to take steps faithfully to observe their obligations under that Agreement,
- (b) to study the possibility of extending that Agreement to become an International anti-venereal convention :

- (i) defining the minimum requirements of adequate provision against venereal diseases in each country ;
- (ii) laying down the measures which would allow for the tracing of infective contacts beyond national frontiers ;

and decides

- (a) to convene an International Anti-venereal Disease Health Conference of the voluntary anti-venereal disease organizations in which the experts would participate ; and for this purpose requests the approval and financial help of the World Health Organization. The sum of ten thousand dollars would appear to be necessary to give effect to this proposal ;
- (b) to reconstitute a Commission charged with the study of questions relating to the Brussels Agreement. This Commission will be divided into two sections, the first studying the campaign against the peril of venereal diseases among seafarers (particularly in the ports), the second studying the problem among immigrants and displaced persons (particularly alien labour), it being understood that improvement is needed not only in medical services but also in the social amenities provided ;
- (c) to constitute a Committee for liaison with the World Health Organization.

Resolution IV

The U.I.P.V., believing that experience has shown that the indiscriminate use by the public of sulphonamides has created sulphonamide resistance in gonococcal and other infections, draws the attention of the medical world to the dangers to public health likely to arise from the oral administration of penicillin.

Resolution V

The U.I.P.V., recognizing the importance of determining and eliminating the reasons for irresponsible sexual conduct, draws the attention of health and education authorities to the necessity for the adoption of measures calculated to reduce the incidence of venereal infections :

- (a) Contact tracing and treatment show that there is a considerable proportion of defaulters among venereal disease patients and that biological and psychological factors are concerned with their conduct. Such cases ought to undergo psychiatric treatment and/or have the benefit of residence in institutions.

- (b) It was recommended that the teaching of biology, with its bearing upon human problems and the stability of the family, should find a place in education schedules. By this means, individual responsibility in sexual conduct would be developed. Enquiries ought to be made in each country regarding the best methods of carrying out this work and the results achieved.

With such enquiries and researches in view, the U.I.P.V. has initiated a Committee which will co-operate with UNESCO and other interested organizations and which will submit reports and proposals.

BOOK REVIEW***VENEREAL DISEASE : ITS PREVENTION
AND CONQUEST***

By George Ryley Scott

(London : Torchstream Books. Second edition. 1947.
Pp. 79. Price 3s. 6d.)

This small booklet presents to the layman a brief account of the problem underlying the successful prevention or cure of the venereal diseases. The nature of the acquisition and the course of the diseases are described in clear terms, and the necessity for accurate early diagnosis and speedy treatment are thoroughly stressed. The pros and cons of the case for compulsory notification, Regulation 33B, and power to deal with defaulting, are discussed.

Methods of prophylaxis, including details of chemical applications, are the subject of separate small chapters in which practical instruction is given. Reliance is placed upon the local use of calomel cream and potassium permanganate solution. Somewhat inconsistently the

latter is recommended in men for external washing only, but in women for internal douching. The terms "Condy's fluid" and "potassium permanganate" are used indiscriminately, this giving the reader the erroneous suggestion that the two substances are identical.

The author has no high opinion of the value of "free clinics," for he considers that they deal in a very minor way with the huge and far-reaching problem of venereal disease. He suggests that there is resentment at the treatment received at "public organizations run by officials"; and that there is too much prying into private lives and affairs. The result of all this, in the author's opinion, is a disinclination to visit a public department, and he considers that many of those who are infected do not visit the clinics.

A great deal of concise and useful information on venereal diseases is packed into the booklet, but one cannot avoid the impression that the prospective patient who reads it might be deterred from seeking advice at a clinic and that to some extent the book may thus undermine the author's plea for early diagnosis and treatment.

V.E.L.